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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 IO-14 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2593
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 3516
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]
DECLASSIFY IN PART
by John Powers on 2/16/2018

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E.O. 12065: XDS-2 9/28/99 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 19-26

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7866

(C) SUMMARY: JACOBO TIMERMAN WAS FINALLY FREED, A LARGE
TERRORIST ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT AND A JUNTA MEMBER
DECLARED THAT THE "WAR GOES ON" DURING THE PERIOD
UNDER REVIEW. INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY WENT
ON TELEVISION AND RADIO TO SOOTHER NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS
IRRITATED BY THE IAHRC VISIT. WE HEARD THAT THE COM-
MISSION LEFT AR ARGENTINA WITH AN ENHANCED APPRECIATION
BOTH OF THE DIMENSIONS OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE WHICH
PRECEDED THE MILITARY'S 1976 COUP AND OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH FOLLOWED IT. END SUMMARY.

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1. (C) TIMERMAN FREED---
AFTER WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WRENCHING AND FIFFICULT'
DELIVERATIONS BY THE JUNAT AND THE MILITARY, THE GOA

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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ACCEPTED THE SUPREME COURT DECISION AND RELEASED JACOBO TIMERMAN SEPTEMBER 25 (SEPTELS). STRIPPED OF HIS CITIZENSHIP, HE WAS EXPELLED TO ISRAEL BY JUNTA ORDER. THE JUNTA HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMPORA--NOW IN ASYLUM AT THE MEXICAN EMBASSY--MAY ALSO BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY IF TESTS SHOW THAT HE NEEDS MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD, THOUGH THIS IS FAR FROM CERTAIN. TIMERMAN'S LIBERATION IS A POSITIVE STEP, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE VIDELA AND VIOLA WERE ABLE TO CARRY THE DAY AGAINST WHAT APPARENTLY WAS DIEHARD RESISTANCE BY HARDLINERS WHO WANTED TO DEFY THE SUPREME COURT. THE AMPLE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE TIMERMAN RELEASE, EVEN INCLUDING DETAILED REPORTS OF THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE NATION'S TOP MILITARY MEN, ILLUSTRATED THE EXPANDING BOUNDS OF PRESS FREEDOM HERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THOSE WHO OPPOSED VIDELA AND VIOLA ARE BOWED BUT NOT DEFEATED AND WILL BE LOOKING FOR THEIR CHANCE TO COME BACK.

2. (U) TERRORISTS STRIKE--

A GROUP OF 10-12 ARMED PERSONS ATTACKED THE RESIDENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY'S SECRETARY OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION, GUILLERMO WALTER KLEIN, SEPTEMBER 27 (SEPTELS). IN A WELL-COORDINATED AND PLANNED ATTACK THEY KILLED TWO GUARDS AT THE HOUSE BEFORE BLOWING IT UP WITH THE ENTIRE KLEIN FAMILY (FATHER, MOTHER AND FOUR CHILDREN) IN IT. IN WHAT IS BEING REASONABLY DESCRIBED AS A MIRACLE, NONE OF THE KLEINS WERE SERIOUSLY HURT ALTHOUGH THE HOME WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. SUB-

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SEQUENTLY, A GROUP IDENTIFYING ITSELF AS THE "HORACIO MENDIZABAL COMMAND" OF THE MONTONERO PARTY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CRIME.

3. (C) JUNTA MEMBER DECLARES WAR STILL ON--

AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND JUNTA MEMBER, GENERAL OMAR GRAFFIGNA ANNOUNCED THAT "THE WAR HAS NOT ENDED" IN A SEPTEMBER 24 SPEECH. GRAFFIGNA STATED THAT THOUGH THE ENEMY-MARXIST TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION-- HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN COMBAT, "THE WAR CONTINUES" AND THE ENEMY CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO "CHANGE TACTICS AND TERRAIN. IT WILL APPEAR TO BE IN RETREAT.... BUT WILL TRY TO INFILTRATE IN THE CLASSROOMS, IN THE UNIVERSITIES, IN INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS, IN ALL THE AREAS OF NATIONAL LIFE THAT IT ONCE USED AS A BASE FOR ITS NATIONAL

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CAMPAIGN...." IN HIS SPEECH, WHICH ECHOES HARDLINE THINKING HERE, GRAFFIGNA ALSO DECLARED THAT ARGENTINA HAD ACUTALLY WON THE "UNDECLARED" THIRD WORLD WAR IN OVERCOMING THE TERRORISTS, ALLOWING THE NATION TO RESUME ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS THE "WEST'S RESERVE IN THE EXTREME SOUTH." IN WHAT IS A NEW DEPARTURE FOR THE REGIME'S PUBLIC DISCOURSE, GRAFFIGNA ALSO STATED THAT "LIBERTY, IN THE AMERICAS IS INDIVISIBLE... WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY SISTER NATION TO FALL UNDER THE ENSLAVING YOKE (OF MARXISM) WE ACCEPT OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN DEFENSE OF COUNTRIES THREATENED BY THE COLLECTIVIST MENACE."

4. (C) THE GOA DEFENDS ITSELF OVER IAHC VISIT---
"ARGENTINES ONLY CONFESS TO GOD," MINISTER OF INTERIOR GENERAL ALBANO HARGUINDEGUY TOLD THE NATION IN A NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS SEPTEMBER 21 DEALING WITH THE VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC). THE MINISTER ASSERTED THAT THE "LIES ABOUT ARGENTINA" WERE "DISPROVEN FOREVER" BY WHAT THE COMMISSION SAW AND HEARD DURING THEIR VISIT HERE. HE STOUTLY ASSERTED THAT THE GOA HAD NOT CONFESSED TO ANYONE BE-

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CAUSE IT HAD NOTHING TO CONFESS. HARGUINDEGUY'S RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS WAS DEFENSIVE ABOUT THE GOA'S DECISION TO INVITE THE IAHC TO ARGENTINA AND, AS SUCH, WOULD SEEM TO REFLECT A READING BY THE GOA THAT THE COMMISSION'S VISIT DID NOT SIT WELL WITH MANY ARGENTINES.

. (C) REACTION OF THE IAHC---
A SOURCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT WHO SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE IAHC TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT COMMISSION DEPARTED ARGENTINA WITH AT LEAST FOUR CONCLUSIONS:

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A) THAT TERRORIST VIOLENCE HAD ACHIEVED MUCH LARGER
DIMENSIONS IN ARGENTINA THAN THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY
REALIZED. ARGENTINA HAD FACED A REAL AND MAJOR THREAT;
B) THAT THE MILITARY'S RESPONSE TO THE TERRORIST THREAT
WAS EMBODIED IN A SORT OF DOCTRINE OF REPRESSION.
UNDER THIS DOCTRINE THE TERRORISTS WERE ELIMINATED BUT
AT THE SAME TIME WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES TOOK
PLACE;
C) VERY FEW OF THE DISAPPEARED ARE STILL ALIVE--THERE
ARE NO SIGNIFICANT CLANDESTINE CAMPS;
D) THAT THE MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASSES SUPPORTED WHAT THE
MILITARY HAD DONE--INsofar AS THEY WERE AWARE OF IT AND
WOULD SUPPORT SUCH TACTICS IF THEY WERE NECESSARY
TO MAINTAIN THEIR SECURITY AGAINST TERRORISTS.
OUR SOURCE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FINAL REPORT OF
THE COMMISSION WILL BE A BLAST AT ARGENTINA'S HUMAN

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RIGHTS RECORD. HE SAID THE REPORT WILL BE ISSUED IN
LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY 1980. THERE IS ALSO
SOME POSSIBILITY, HE SAID, THAT THE COMMISSION WILL
MAKE AN ORAL PRESENTATION TO THE AOSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ABOUT THE ARGENTINE SITUATION IN LA PAZ.

6. (C) THE DISAPPEARED---

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OUR RECORDS NOW SHOW A TOTAL OF 13 PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED SINCE AUGUST 1 AND NOT REAPPEARED. THREE OF THESE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER, INCLUDING THE MURKY CASE OF REGINO GONZALEZ. GONZALES' FAMILY DISAPPEARED SEPTEMBER 13 ONLY TO BE SURFACED A WEEK LATER BY SECURITY SERVICES, WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE RELEASED AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT MRS. GONZALES WAS BEING HELD IN CUSTODY. GONZALES REPORTEDLY WAS NOT AT HOME WHEN THE FAMILY WAS SEIZED, BUT HIS RELATIVES ASSUME HE WAS TAKEN ELSEWHERE SINCE HE WAS MISSING. THERE IS ONE REPORT THAT HE IS INDEED IN CUSTODY, AND ANOTHER THAT HE IS DEAD. ON SEPTEMBER 25, FIVE AFRICAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS DEMANDED HIS RELEASE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OUT OF DAR ES SALAAM, STATING HE HAD BEEN THE MONTONERO LIAISON WITH THEM.

7. (S/NOFORN) WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS THAT THE TEN PEOPLE DISAPPEARED IN AUGUST ARE STILL ALIVE AND PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH AN UNDERGROUND CELL OF "FAP" ("FUERZAS ARMADAS PERONISTAS"), A TERRORIST GROUP ACTIVE IN THE EARLY 1970'S. THE LATEST OF THESE CAME THROUGH [REDACTED], WITH THE ADDED DETAILS THAT THE "FAP" DE-TAINEES ARE BEING HELD IN THE CAMPO DE MAYO MILITARY BASE AWAITING TRIAL BY A SECRET MILITARY TRIBUNAL. INTERESTINGLY, A MOTHER OF ONE OF THE DISAPPEARED WHOSE FAMILY IS WELL CONNECTED TOLD US SEPTEMBER 21 THAT SHE HAD

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HEARD, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO CONFIRM IT, THAT HER SON WAS BEING HELD IN CAMPO DE MAYO.

8. (C) FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE WE NOW HAVE 35 SUBSTANTIAL REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES.

9. (U) BITTEL LET GO BY ONE JUDGE--
ONE OF THE TWO FEDERAL JUDGES INVESTIGATING THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT DECLARATION BY PERONIST DEOLINDO BITTEL AND HERMANIO IGLESIAS CALLED A HALT TO FURTHER JUDICIAL ACTIVITY SEPTEMBER 27. THE JUDGE ACTED BECAUSE, HE SAID, HE HAD NO WITNESSES OTHER THAN BITTEL AND IGLESIAS WHO REFUSED UNDER THE CONSTITUTIONS TO TESTIFY AGAINST THEMSELVES. THE INVESTIGATION AGAINST THE TWO BY THE JUDGE IN SANTA FE IS STILL PENDING.
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